

**OVERVIEW OF ARIZONA NATIVE TROUT WORKSHOP
JANUARY 14, 2010**

1. This meeting consisted of a group of Trout Unlimited (TU) National and Arizona Council and Chapter members, along with key people (biologists, native fish specialists, etc) from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Arizona Flycaster chapters (FFF), and others interested in native trout recovery in Arizona.
2. A presentation was made by Jack Williams, TU, on their Conservation Success Index (CSI) and how it is used to evaluate the status of western native trout species and their recovery approaches and status. He discussed both Gila and Apache Trout and how CSI has been helpful in recovery of native trout species in other states in the US. He gave an overview of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's keystone initiative project on the upper Colorado River for conservation of Colorado River cutthroat trout, roundtail chub, flannelmouth sucker, and bluehead sucker.
3. A presentation was made by Julie Carter, Arizona Game and Fish Department, on Apache trout and Gila trout recovery in Arizona. She stated that there were currently 28 populations of Apache Trout that count towards recovery in Arizona out of a goal of 30 populations. She discussed how the Gila trout populations (potential and existing) in Arizona relate to the recovery criteria defined in the Recovery Plan. In November 2009, Gila trout from the South Diamond Creek lineage were stocked into Frye Creek (Pinaleño Mts; Coronado National Forest) and Grapevine Creek (Prescott National Forest). There are plans to chemically renovate two additional Pinaleño Mt streams, Ash and Marijilda creeks, in 2010 and 2011, respectively. Once Gila trout are established in Frye, Ash, and Marijilda creeks, this mountain range will support Gila trout, Apache trout hybrids (Grant and Big creeks on the south side of the range), and rainbow, brown, and brook trout at Riggs Lake. Several streams in the Blue River drainage are under investigation for potential Gila trout reestablishment from the Spruce Creek lineage. Haigler Creek, a tributary to Tonto Creek, is also under investigation for future Gila trout establishment.
4. A presentation was made by Stewart Jacks, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), on their involvement with Apache and Gila trout recovery in Arizona and New Mexico. The FWS coordinates directly with the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and assists with Apache trout projects on the reservation. The 2nd revision of the Apache Trout Recovery Plan was signed in 2009 and Jeremy Voeltz (FWS) and Julie Carter were the primary biologists to finalize the revision. Stewart discussed briefly how they are involved with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's keystone initiative grant for Apache trout recovery.
5. A presentation was made by Chris Cantrell, Arizona Game and Fish Department, on roundtail chub conservation in Arizona. Highlighted were the successful broodstock development at the AZGFD Bubbling Ponds Hatchery and the opening of a catch-and-release fishery for roundtail and headwater chubs in Fossil Creek, near Strawberry.

6. Dick Brown of the Northern Arizona Flycasters (FFF) gave an overview of the club's involvement with the Gila trout reintroduction project for the West Fork Oak Creek near Sedona. After more than 10 years of planning, multiple meetings per year, and the dedication of the Flycasters and agency proponents, the project is finally in the NEPA phase and barrier construction is planned for late 2010 and stocking for 2010 or 2011.

7. Jeff Collins of Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited gave an overview of the club's involvement with crayfish trapping on the upper West Fork Black River, barrier maintenance of Apache trout barriers, and temperature monitoring of both Apache and Gila trout recovery streams.

8. Phil Fernandez of Glendale Community College and Zane Grey Trout Unlimited chapter discussed crayfish biology and capture in trout streams and introduced the topic of using different capture methods to catch young crayfish to limit their population growth. Current capture methods target adult crayfish, which may encourage survival of younger crayfish and ultimately increase production rather than deplete the population. He hopes that the Haigler Creek project may be an opportunity to set up a study and experimental design to pursue this hypothesis. Jack Williams suggested this may be a great graduate project with implications western wide.

9. The group was then split into two workshop groups (one on Apache Trout and one on Gila Trout) to discuss the bottlenecks involved with reestablishing native trout populations in Arizona. The main constraints identified in both groups were the NEPA process, timelines, and cost; funding; and barrier maintenance. The idea of pursuing programmatic approaches to NEPA was discussed as a potential solution, rather than funding NEPA on a per project basis. Notes in more detail are anticipated from Jack Williams (Apache trout group) and Joe McGurrian (Gila trout group).

10. Overall this meeting was productive in the fact that it provided a means of networking between the attending parties for the present and future. This should present a better means of the different groups to work together in the future to accomplish their goals as a group rather than individually. There was discussion of making this meeting a yearly workshop on Native Coldwater species in Arizona. This meeting also gave some of those attending an understanding of what CSI does and how it can help in the recovery of native trout in Arizona, as many people were unfamiliar with the CSI approach prior to the meeting.